



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL MARK E. STEARNS



Colonel Mark E. Stearns is the commander of the 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan. He is responsible for the management, training, command and control of the Department of Defense's only airlift wing in the Pacific theater. As the western Pacific airlift hub, Yokota Air Base provides mission ready forces and base operating support to guarantee U.S. forward presence and crisis response.

The colonel entered the Air Force after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1979. He is a command pilot with over 4,100 hours of flying time in the C-141, KC-10, C-130 and UH-1 helicopter. He has served in staff assignments at the Headquarters U.S. Air Force and the Joint Staff. Before assuming his current position, Colonel Stearns

was Deputy Director for Operations, U.S. Transportation Command.

EDUCATION:

- 1979 Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Sciences, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.
- 1983 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 1985 Masters of Science, University of Northern Colorado, Colo.
- 1992 Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.
- 1996 National Security Studies, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. June 1979 – June 1980, student, Undergraduate Helicopter Training, Ft. Rucker, Ala.
2. June 1980 – July 1984, aircraft commander, instructor pilot, flight examiner, and chief Aircrew Standardization/Evaluation, 37th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.
3. July 1984 – June 1985, IG Helicopter Weapons System Manager, Military Airlift Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
4. June 1985 – January 1987, executive officer for the Command Secretariat, Military Airlift Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
5. January 1987 – January 1988, student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas
6. January 1988 – September 1989, C-141 pilot and aircraft commander, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.
7. September 1989 – July 1990, chief of operations, Special Operations Division, 437th Air Mobility Wing, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.
8. July 1990 – June 1991, assistant operations officer, 76th Airlift Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.
9. June 1991 – June 1992, student, Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.

10. June 1992 – November 1993, member, CSAF Operations Group, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
11. November 1993 – April 1995, commander, 20th Airlift Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.
12. April 1995 – July 1995, deputy commander, 60th Operations Group, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.
13. July 1995 – July 1996, student, National Defense Fellows, Air Force Institute of Technology, Colorado Springs, Colo.
14. July 1996 – July 1997, executive assistant for Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs, J-5 Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.
15. July 1997 – July 1998, deputy division chief for the Asia Pacific Division, J-5 Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.
16. July 1998 – April 1999, deputy commander, 305th Operations Group, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.
17. April 1999 – November 2000, commander, 305th Operations Group, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.
18. November 2000 – October 2001, deputy director for operations, USTRANSCOM/TCJ3-D, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.
19. October 2001 – present, commander, 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota Air Base Japan

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 4,100

Aircraft flown: UH/TH-1, T-37, T-38, C-141, C-130 and KC-10

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant May 30, 1979

First Lieutenant May 30, 1981

Captain May 30, 1983

Major December 1, 1988

Lieutenant Colonel April 1, 1992

Colonel August 1, 1998

(Current as of October 2001)